REMARKS

Claims 20-34 are deemed to be allowed. Such allowance is sincerely appreciated.

Claim 13 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 is dependent from claim 1 and all the limitations of claim 1 have been included in the amended claim 13 shown on the enclosed list of claims that remain in this application.

The applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance of the allowed claims 20-34 and herein amended claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached herewith are being sent by facsimile transmission to the United States Patent and Trademark Office central facsimile number (703.872.9306) on September 30, 2004.

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Listing of Claims Remaining in this Application

1 – 12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1,~~ A detector apparatus having a fingerprint sensor having a receiving portion that is configured to accept an authentication article, the fingerprint sensor detecting one or more predetermined features of said authentication article and reading at least a portion of a fingerprint of a user wherein the fingerprint sensor is detachably coupled to binoculars.

14 – 19 (cancelled)

20. (original) A pointing device, comprising:

an interface for operably communicating with a computer system;

a base;

a trackball mounted upon the base;

an upper section, said upper section including at least one button formed substantially on a top surface of the upper section; and

a fingerprint sensor having a receiving portion that is configured to accept an authentication article, wherein the fingerprint sensor is mounted within the upper section for detecting one or more predetermined features of said authentication article and for reading at least a portion of a fingerprint of a user's finger in response of the finger positioned adjacent to said fingerprint sensor and the authentication article disposed in proximity to the receiving portion and readable by said fingerprint sensor.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a feature detection sensor in operative relation with the fingerprint sensor, wherein the feature detection sensor detects the one or more predetermined features, or any combination thereof of the authentication article.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a verification engine in operative relation with the computer system, the fingerprint sensor, and the feature detection sensor for determining an identity of the user, wherein the fingerprint sensor provides:

a first signal to the verification engine, the first signal being derived from the portion of the fingerprint, and the feature detection sensor provides:

a second signal to the verification engine, the second signal being derived from at least one of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the verification engine comprises:

a database having a user storage, an authorization profile storage, and an audit log storage; and

a comparator engine for comparing:

the first signal indicative of the at least portion of the fingerprint with a first authentication signal corresponding to a stored copy of the fingerprint within the database, and

the second signal indicative of the at least one of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article with a second authentication signal corresponding to a stored copy of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article within the database to provide an authorization signal for a secured application which is communicatively coupled to the computer system.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the authorization signal selectively provides an access to the secured application to the user.

25. (original) A pointing device as recited in claim 20, wherein the fingerprint sensor is located beneath a particular one of the button positions.

26. (original) A pointing device a s recited in claim 25, wherein the fingerprint sensor includes a capacitive imaging array located at the particular button position contactable

by the user's finger so that the user's fingerprint may be imaged by the capacitive imaging array.

27. (original) A pointing device as recited in claim 26, wherein the fingerprint sensor is incorporated into an operable button located at the particular button position.

28. (original) A pointing device as recited in claim 25, wherein:

the fingerprint sensor includes an optical imaging array; and

the particular button position includes a transparent material through which the user's fingerprint may be imaged by the imaging array.

29. (original) The pointing device of claim 20, further comprising one or more additional biometric sensors in operative relation with the fingerprint sensor.

30. (original) The pointing device, comprising:

an interface for operably communicating with c computer system;

a base;

a trackball mounted upon the base;

an upper section, said upper section including at least one button formed substantially on a top surface of the upper section; and

a fingerprint sensor having a receiving portion that is configured to accept an authentication article, wherein the fingerprint sensor is mounted within the upper section for detecting one or more predetermined features of said authentication article and for reading at least a portion of a fingerprint of a user's finger in response to the finger positioned adjacent to said fingerprint sensor and the authentication article disposed in proximity to the receiving portion and readable by said fingerprint sensor; and

a verification engine for operably communication with the computer system for determining an identity of the user.

31. (original) The pointing device of claim 30, further comprising a feature detection sensor in operative relation with the fingerprint sensor, wherein the feature detection

sensor detects the one or more predetermined features, or any combination thereof of the authentication article.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the fingerprint sensor provides:

a first signal to the verification engine, the first signal being derived from the portion of the fingerprint, and the feature detection sensor provides:

a second signal to the verification engine, the second signal being derived from at least one of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the verification engine comprises:

a database having a user storage, an authorization profile storage, and an audit log storage; and

a comparator engine for comparing:

the first signal indicative of the at least portion of the fingerprint with a first authentication signal corresponding to a stored copy of the fingerprint within the database, and

the second signal indicative of the at least one of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article with a second authentication signal corresponding to a stored copy of the one or more predetermined features of the authentication article within the database to provide an authorization signal for a secured application which is communicatively coupled to the computer system.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the authorization signal selectively provides an access to the secured application to the user.

35 – 39 (cancelled)